



Sheriff Gus H. Skinner, Jr. McCreary County Sheriff

Gus Skinner began his law enforcement career as a special deputy marshall for the Municipal Court in Columbus, Ga. and also joined the Columbus Police Department in 1973. In 1975, Skinner joined the Daugherty County Police Department in Albany, Ga. and joined the Fort Benning Fire Department in 1981. He transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in Kentucky as a federal agent in 1992 and graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. During this time, he was heavily involved in drug enforcement and also was assigned to Appalachia HIDTA. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2004. In 2006, he became sheriff of McCreary County as a write-in. No sheriff in the history of the state had ever won the office as a write-in candidate. In 2010 he was re-elected as sheriff. Skinner has one daughter, Heather.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS YOUR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS SHERIFF?

My first and foremost accomplishment was to bring trust and professionalism back into the McCreary County Sheriff's Office. During my terms as sheriff I have applied for and received various grants. With these grants we have purchased new fleet vehicles, which were badly needed. Each deputy and two court security officers have Tasers. The deputies have MDTs in their vehicles. I was able to hire a law enforcement intelligence analyst who is invaluable to this office and surrounding agencies.

HOW HAS YOUR EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND AS A FEDERAL AGENT HELPED YOU IN YOUR ROLE AS SHERIFF OF MCCREARY COUNTY?

While working as a federal agent in this area, I worked with various local, state and federal

agencies. The respect and trust I developed over the years has been invaluable. As sheriff, if I need any assistance, I am able to pull resources from these different agencies in combating crime in McCreary County.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST FAVORABLE RESOURCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT?

Being a small, rural county with no incorporated cities and the Daniel Boone National Forest making up 75 percent of the county, funds and manpower are limited. My office has four full-time deputies and myself for 24/7 coverage. My deputies go above and beyond their obligations because of their love for their county. We depend heavily on Kentucky State Police for their extra support. All I have to do is call KSP and they are always there for support. We do not know what we would do without the dedicated troopers in our county.

PLEASE SHARE THE OVERALL THEME OF YOUR OFFICE AND WHY?

The theme of our office is to serve and protect the people of McCreary

My first and foremost accomplishment was to bring trust and professionalism back into the McCreary County Sheriff's Office.

County while placing our trust in God. The people of McCreary County deserve to feel safe in their homes. Drugs are a major problem in the county so we partner with different drug task forces to slow the drug trafficking in the county.

WHAT IS THE DOCUMENTARY THAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT THE MCCREARY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE?

A film crew out of Los Angeles, Calif. wanted to do a documentary about law enforcement in Appalachia. After doing some research they found McCreary County, Ky. I was contacted and agreed to help with their project. They spent a couple of weeks filming my deputies and me. They are hoping to have it produced by either National Geographic or the Discovery Channel. If this happens, it will be a great boost for the county. 🇺🇸

